

REMARKS

Claims 1-74 are pending in the subject application and are presently under examination. By this amendment, applicants have canceled claims 13 and 20-26. The subject matter of these canceled claims was allowed in parent application Serial No. 08/715,163 in claims 13, 20-26, and 73-77.

Applicants note that an amendment was filed on March 15, 1999 in connection with the parent application in which new claims were added. The new claims were numbered 73-77 due to inadvertent error. They should have been numbered 75-79 instead of 73-77 because a total of 74 claims were originally filed in the parent application. Therefore, claims 73 and 74, as originally filed with the parent application, remain pending in the subject application.

Applicants maintain that this amendment does not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment. Claims 1-12, 14-19, and 27-74 will now be pending and under examination.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/29/01

By: 

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